

Rehab center frees trapped duck



By Photo courtesy Bill Scheffler

“Trapper Duck” waits for rescue after getting her beak caught in muskrat trap.

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By Bill Scheffler

The Pratt Tribune

[NEW!](#) Fri Feb 27, 2009, 11:42 AM CST

Pratt, Kan. -

As my “clock of life” moves on I personally have more concern and feelings for all forms of life, including all wildlife. As a younger hunter I don’t remember ever having concern about the suffering brought on to game by hunters and trappers, etc. That has changed “big time”! Now one of my big concerns is to try to keep the game I’m after from suffering. This attitude has been “flamed” by my wife Sharon. She has strong feelings about protecting the game we hunt. Her feelings about the well being of wildlife surfaces in a lot of ways. One of the ways this shows up is her involvement with the Eagle valley Raptor and Rescue Center near Cheney.

Mr. Ken Lockwood, the director and owner of the rehab center, received a call from a frantic lady and little girl, this last week about a duck that was caught in a muskrat trap. The location was east of Wichita, more that 40 miles from the center. He usually does not do ducks but when he heard the pitiful cries in their voices he had to go help this duck. He is happy he did. The picture shows what happens when people set traps where there are known birds like ducks or raptors. Mr. Lockwood had to pull the trap out of the ground, lift it and the duck out of the

wedged place it was in. He comforted her and she actually laid still and let him pry open the trap and pull out her beak. It was wedged in such a way that nothing was broken or damaged. Just a sore beak, he was sure. After getting her beak out, he checked it over, she stood up, wagged her tail, took one look at him, quacked a couple of times and went over and jumped back into the pond! He named her "Trapper Duck".

Another eagle was found by some game wardens with the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Dept. in Butler Co. He was found dragging a beaver trap on his left foot. The middle toe is broken and there is a lot of infection in the whole foot. Ken has it stabilized and treating him with antibiotics. The eagle is being taken to K-State to see if surgery will save the toe. The bird has been calm and hasn't tried to take off the bandages. He has been named "Trapper Joe", cousin of "Trapper John",

the one that was released over the Arkansas River at Herman Hill Park last week. His injury is considered serious, as the talons are very important for him to be able to catch food and survive in the wild. This again was a preventable injury as there are known Eagles in the area where the trap was set.

We salute Mr. Lockwood for his commitment of taking upon himself the care and rehabilitation of raptors and his attempt to educate the public of their importance and raising our consciousness of how our actions affect these creatures, either bad or good. This is an expensive commitment and a non-profit center. Support of Mr. Lockwood's actions is worthwhile.